Charles Seminary Library
Carthagena, Ohio
MAY 2 3 '61

CHILDREN'S BOOK

—Claire Huchet Bisho

THE

Commonweal

Civil Defense

Surviving the Bomb

by Vincent Wilson, Jr.

Italian Unification

A Roman Irony

by Gunnar D. Kumlien

Organizing Teachers

"U" Is for Unions

by John C. Cort

olume LXXIV, No. 9 May 26, 1961 Twenty-Five Cen

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

THE MONTH

IN JANUARY, 1959, we began to publish, in each issue, a series of articles on the principal mystical and ascetical teachers of the Church. Outstanding studies on St. Bede, Walter Hilton, John Cassian, and several other spiritual writers have already appeared. The series when completed will form an unusual and fascinating history of mysticism, for the teaching of each of the great figures will be set in an individual and personal framework. A list of some of the articles and authors to be published during the next two or three years is given below:

ORIGEN
Henri Crouzel, S.J.
ST. BENEDICT
David Knowles
ST. ALPHONSUS RODRIGUEZ
Donal O'Sullivan, S.J.
THE MONK OF FARNE
Hugh Farmer, O.S.B.
ST. BERNARD
William Yeomans, S.J.
AUGUSTINE BAKER
Renée Haynes
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
Anthony Levi, S.J.
ST. BRUNO
A Monk of Parkminster
DIONYSIUS THE AREOPAGITE
John Vanneste, S.J.
JULIANA OF NORWICH
Anna Maria Reynolds
RICHARD OF ST. VICTOR
John Bligh, S.J.
WILLIAM OF ST. THIERRY
Odo Brooke, O.S.B.
PÈRE SURIN
Michel de Certeau, S.J.
DENYS THE CARTHUSIAN
A Monk of Parkminster
ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA
Jean Daniélou, S.J.
JOHN SCOT ERIGENA
Jean-Marie Déchanet, O.S.B.
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
Paul Molinari, S.J.
VENANTIUS FORTUNATUS
P. G. Walsh
MARGERY KEMPE
E. B. Strauss
PÈRE DE CAUSSADE
George Scott-Moncrieff
MEISTER ECKHART
Elmer O'Brien, S.J.
MECHTILDE OF MAGDEBURG
Eric Colledge

Annual Subscription (12 issues), $6

THE MONTH, 31 Farm Street, London, W.1, England

THIS WEEK

Week by Week 219

Surviving the Bomb
by Vincent Wilson, Jr. 222

A Roman Irony
by Gunnar D. Kumlien 225

"U" Is for Unions
by John C. Cort 226

The Poet As Priest: A Poem
by Pierre Henri Delattre 229

The Screen
by Philip T. Hartung 230

Words of Praise
by Claire Huchet Bishop 231

A Selected List of Children's Books 233

THE COMMONWEAL
232 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 16

Editor
EDWARD S. SKILLIN

Managing Editor
JAMES O'GARA

Associate Editors
JAMES FINN
RICHARD HORCHLER

Drama Critic: RICHARD HAYES; *Movie Critic:* PHILIP T. HARTUNG; *Paris:* ROBERT BARRAT; *Rome:* GUNNAR D. KUMLIEN; *Great Britain:* MICHAEL P. FOGARTY

JOHN BRUBAKER: *Advertising Manager*

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Orange, Conn., under the act of March 3, 1879. Second-class postage paid at Orange, Conn. Printed in the U.S.A. and published weekly, except biweekly from mid-July to mid-September, at 440 Post Road, Orange, Conn., by The Commonweal Publishing Co., Inc., 232 Madison Ave., New York 16, N.Y. MUrray Hill 3-2042.

Copyright © 1961 The Commonweal Publishing Co., Inc.
U.S. and Canada, $8 a year, Foreign, $10. Single copies 25¢
Printed at the Wilson H. Lee Co., Orange, Conn.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

THE
Commonweal
A Weekly Review of Public Affairs, Literature, and the Arts
THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

week by week

THE REALITIES OF CIVIL DEFENSE

CIVIL DEFENSE is a public policy question of desperate importance, one which grows in urgency with every passing moment—and we are measuring our time, as Arthur Koestler has suggested, by a "post-Hiroshima" clock. To contribute to the public debate which this issue must have, The Commonweal this week publishes "Surviving the Bomb," by Vincent Wilson, Jr. As the title of his article indicates, Mr. Wilson holds the thesis that "adequate civil preparedness has special value as a deterrent against attack," and that those who protest against this civil preparedness may be making nuclear attack more rather than less likely.

This is probably the majority view—although it is hard to say anything for sure about public thinking on this question. Nevertheless, this year's Civil Defense nuclear attack drill brought more protesters than ever before, so many in fact that those who were arrested for refusing to take shelter represent only a random selection of the demonstrators.

Most of those arrested—at least those who have been brought up before magistrates—were given rather light sentences: a modest fine or a few days in jail. But some few met with shocking outbursts of judicial savagery and vindictiveness. Two young people in New York—a boy of twenty and a girl of nineteen—were given an angry and rather incoherent lecture by an utterly uncomprehending local magistrate and sentenced to terms far more severe than those meted out to hardened criminals. The girl was sentenced to thirty days in the Women's House of Detention and the boy to sixty days in the workhouse. The nineteen-year-old girl, fortunately, has since been released on an appeal; the young man remains in the workhouse.

Clearly, our society has a problem to resolve—or rather a number of problems. In the first place there is the question of the treatment of conscientious protesters against laws they feel are evil and unjust. It cannot be pretended that this is a simple problem; nevertheless, gestures of civil disobedience have a long and honorable tradition in our society. The stand against the state—in behalf of conscience and obedience to authority higher than the state—is much praised by commencement day orators when it is considered in the abstract or judged to be part of a safely distant national history. But surely if we are to luxuriate in the integrity of Thoreau and the Founding Fathers we must in decency recognize the same spirit of protest when we encounter it today.

This is not to say that the law should not be enforced. The Civil Defense protesters expected that they would have to pay for the stand they took; they were willing to pay a price in order to register publicly their dissent. Yet, in the cases cited, what the dissenters encountered in the courts of this society founded upon dissent was not even justice—it was ignorance and revenge.

ANOTHER PROBLEM entirely is that of "adequate civil preparedness." Here, it seems to us, a reasonable case can be made. Perhaps the proper public response to the threat of nuclear warfare ought to be massive and immediate efforts to transform our nation into an underground fortress, for this is precisely what "adequate" preparedness would mean. It is an overwhelming idea, but perhaps we must face the possibility of remaking our entire civilization in line with the grim demands of the nuclear age.

It can be questioned, of course, whether we wish to accept the alternative of becoming burrowing animals, whether we can physically accomplish the staggering work which this decision would

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

mean, whether we could complete our preparations in time for them to be useful, whether the tremendous amounts of money and energy which would be called for might not be better spent in exploring other alternatives.

About our present Civil Defense procedures, however, there can be no such debate. As the critics of our C.D. system point out, they are such unreal and futile exercises as almost to demand a questioning of the motivation behind them. Present civil preparedness plans simply defy the known facts of the hydrogen bomb. They minimize the extent of absolute destruction at the target area (several hundred miles), the number of deaths which would result from one bomb (several million), the extent of radioactive poisoning from a single bomb explosion (several thousand square miles). They pass over such elementary factors as the need for food, water, even uncontaminated air. They assume that our official strategy of instantaneous and massive retaliation against any nuclear bomb strike does not work inevitably towards "super-massive" attack. Above all, they misrepresent the warning time we can presently expect.

It is hard not to agree that these Civil Defense drills do more harm than good. Insofar as they create a public impression that the United States has at this time any real defense against the bomb, except the deterrence of massive retaliation, they are misleading and dishonest. Insofar as they suggest that our society can "live with" nuclear warfare, short of transforming itself into an underground "Community of Fear," they are worse than useless, since they delay the day when we must confront this issue in its true dimensions.

These are the facts which must be dealt with by those who argue for the theoretical deterrent value of "adequate civil preparedness." It is likely that many of those who are protesting the annual C.D. ritual would not protest a civil defense plan which was not hypocritical and absurd on its face. Many others would protest in any case, of course, because they are convinced that the nuclear weapons are immoral, or because they believe there can be no defense against the bombs except peace.

The protesters may be wrong, obviously, but they have at least grappled with the problem and come to a decision. Most Americans, it seems, have comforted themselves, or permitted themselves to be comforted, by systematic pretense. The nuclear super-weapons have confronted the United States with its most crucial public question; it must not be decided by apathy, self-deception and abdication of responsibility.

REACTIONS TO ESPIONAGE

INTERNATIONAL espionage is now generally accepted as one of the political facts of life. Like many other facts of life, it is undeniable, it has been around for some time and there have always been some people who were knowledgeable about it. But only in recent years has it been widely acknowledged and accepted as something which occurs outside of actual war and, of course, the movies.

The process of national education in these matters has been relatively slow. It took several sensational spy cases to teach many people that spies were, indeed, working in our midst and that they did transmit secret information. While the incidents which occurred in the United States were unquestionably sensational, they have paled next to those that have occurred in England. Now, added to the fairly long list of uncovered spies, is George Blake, an official of the British Foreign Office who confessed that he had been a Soviet agent for almost ten years. The difficulties that England—or any other country—faces in dealing with a person such as George Blake is that until the moment of disclosure there is no reason to think of him as other than a loyal and dedicated citizen.

From this acknowledged truth—that no major country today is totally immune to espionage—have come some of the worst excesses of our own political life. In attempting to curb and limit the dangers many have been willing to curb and limit democratic freedoms. That we need to have strong security methods is beyond question. The more relaxed attitudes of the British have not, quite clearly, proved to be preferable.

What we do not need, however, are some of the more foolish proposals of the House Un-American Activities Committee, among which is Representative Walter's proposal to set up extensive controls over "foreign political propaganda" mailed to the U.S. from abroad. This measure is not only foolish in itself—it simply extends a program similar to that which President Kennedy discontinued because it served "no useful intelligence function"—but it distracts public attention and informed criticism from areas that most need it.

THE JOHNSON MISSION

IN THE COLD WAR struggle there is an understandable compulsion to give support to all anti-Communist forces. Too often this has resulted in calling down upon the United States the odium

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

attached to repressive, reactionary governments, and the task of local Communist elements has been made that much easier. Better information on the state of popular feeling in each country could have forestalled some of these past mistakes, but it is seldom easy for Washington to turn a deaf ear to anti-Communist governments even when they fail to represent dominant national sentiments.

The various way-stations on Vice President Johnson's current mission highlight difficulties of this sort. Perhaps no country puts the dilemma in more striking terms than South Vietnam, headed by courageous President Ngo Dinh Diem. In some contrast with Laos, there is considerable popular support for fighting the Communist guerrillas.

About the sincerity of Mr. Diem's dedication to his nation's cause or of his opposition to the Communists there can be no question. Nor can there be any doubt as to the threat posed by the 12,000 Viet Cong guerrillas. Mr. Diem has long maintained that if left to themselves the people of Vietnam could easily handle the local Communists. The trouble is that the Vietnamese are not being left to themselves—and, when Laos is taken over with the help of Pathet Lao troops trained in North Vietnam, his guerrilla-infested country will find itself in greater danger than ever. At the same time sizable elements of the South Vietnamese people have grown increasingly restive under the authoritarian government of Mr. Diem and his family.

How far, then, can the United States commit itself to full-scale, unqualified support of the present South Vietnamese regime? How can the quality of Mr. Diem's determination to resist be weighed against the popular resentments caused by the arbitrariness of his rule? Can the question be asked about South Vietnam which we should have asked in recent years about so many other countries of the globe: do the people really want us—or a group of allied countries, or a U.N. force—to bolster their present government, or even to defend them against a Communism that seems to promise them at least a more decent level of existence?

If the answer to the last of these questions is a negative one, there is little point to our continuing to pour in arms and treasure where in the end they will be turned against us. The eight-point agreement reached between Mr. Johnson and Mr. Diem appears to take some account of present disaffections. Primary emphasis is on added military support of the present system, and it is the armed forces who appear to be in charge of forthcoming health, welfare and public works measures, but the statement also calls for American-Vietnamese collaboration on long-range economic development—in rural areas, on fisheries, highways, industrial development and public administration. The troubling thought is that much of this is too far in the future and that it is not enough to win the non-Communist dissidents. Immediate political reforms are required, too. Simply beefing up the South Vietnamese military establishment under its present system will hardly save the day.

CRITICAL REACTIONS

HAVING BEEN critical of the Legion of Decency in the past, we would like to call particular attention to the classification which the Legion has given to "La Dolce Vita" and to the reasons for the classification. The latest of Federico Fellini's films, "La Dolce Vita" was highly praised and sharply abused in Europe, particularly in Italy, which supplied the background for the film, both on moral and esthetic grounds. It is likely to draw the same response in this country.

Acknowledging the complexity of critical judgment when faced with such a picture, the Legion gave it a separate classification, stating that while the film was not morally offensive it required some analysis and explanation. In its analysis the Legion made many pertinent and telling statements.

"Thematically this film is a bitter attack upon the debauchery and degradation of a hedonistic society of leisure and abundance; modern paganism with all its sinful catalogues of pleasure-seeking, hypocrisy, cynicism and selfishness is appallingly and overpoweringly exposed in the most unflattering possible light. By inference at least the film is also a denunciation of the creeping paralysis of decadence wherever it is taking hold in our modern civilization."

The Legion, which went on to make additional comments on the film, also commended Astor Pictures, Inc., for the responsibility they showed in the way they exhibit and advertise the film. We do not think that the Legion has said the final critical word on the film, nor did it intend to. But it has offered intelligent comment and evaluation.

At another end of the critical scale we draw attention to Hollywood columnist Louella Parsons. Evidently unwilling to be caught without an opinion, she said, "I haven't seen "La Dolce Vita" so I won't blast it as being immoral, amoral and depraved until I see it." We submit that the two reactions fairly well represent the extremes of responsible and irresponsible attitudes on the film.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Surviving the Bomb

According to some experts, it will be our preparedness, not our lack of it, which will serve as a deterrent against Soviet attack

by VINCENT WILSON, JR.

THE ATOMIC BOMB that fell on Hiroshima sixteen years ago both ended a war and began a new age, one that has been variously labeled the Atomic Age, the H-bomb Age and the Nuclear Age, but one which has in this country to a remarkable degree been a new age in name only. For the most part, life in America has developed no strikingly new patterns that reflect this new age or that tend to distingush it from the preceding years. In some respects, in fact, it would seem more to the point to label these past years the T.V. Age—considering the apparent impact of television on the population as a whole. However, as we move into the sixties, and particularly into a period of increased East-West tension, there is more reason than ever for attempting to face realistically the almost overwhelming facts of the nuclear age.

In an article in the New York *Times Magazine* last year, Arthur Koestler stressed the importance of this new age by suggesting that the years after 1945 be designated "P.H." for post-Hiroshima, and that this new way of reckoning (1961 equals years 16 P.H.) be carried in our minds as a second calendar —as a constant reminder. To him, 1945 represents a decisive break in the continuity of life as Western man has known it, a break which he believes has been only imperfectly grasped during this initial sixteen-year period. He compared this failure in human response to that earlier phenomenon when sixteenth- and seventeenth-century man only very gradually accepted the Copernican over the Ptolemaic view of the universe, observing that man can grasp the significance of such vast changes to his world only by the slow process of assimilation.

But man may certainly begin to grasp, and attempt to come to terms with, such a drastic change—if it touches him closely, and if he is adequately informed of that fact. And modern communications, properly utilized, might be expected to speed up the process. Already there are some Americans—and some public officials like Governor Rockefeller—who have perceived that the nuclear age touches us all, who have recognized that the public must be informed, and who have advocated serious civil preparedness efforts, including a thorough shelter program as a necessary public response.

There are others. One group of Americans who have seriously considered the awful power of the H-bomb and are acutely aware of the horror of such a weapon is the small band who for some years have conscientiously protested against all nuclear warfare by publicly refusing to participate in civil defense drills. However, admirable and courageous as their stand is, it seems possible in the light of authoritative estimates that adequate civil preparedness has special value as a deterrent against attack, that their protests against such measures may, in effect, be working counter to their aims. For, according to some experts, it will be our preparedness, not our lack of it, which may when the chips are down serve to influence the Soviets against attack—at least against the use of nuclear weapons.

PERHAPS a fault of those who protest the civil defense drills is a certain blurring of the distinction between our civil preparedness, which is one thing, and our possible use of nuclear weapons, which is quite another; it is possible that both are seen as manifestations of a single "nuclear policy." But this of course can never be: our government is not making nuclear policy for Russia. Whether or not we have or continue to make nuclear weapons, Russia has them; and while our country strives for mutual disarmament and a peaceful settlement of problems, prudence indicates that in the meantime we can maintain a more secure position, both as individuals and as

Mr. Wilson is an editor and teacher, now at the University of Maryland. This is his first appearance in The Commonweal.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

a nation, if we are better prepared to survive an attack.

That adequate civil preparedness *would* have special deterrent value is the conclusion reached by the Special Subcommittee on Radiation of the U.S. Congress Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, the subcommittee which held hearings last year on the biological and environmental effects of nuclear war for the express purpose of informing the American people of the basic facts of nuclear warfare. But comparatively little publicity has been given to the findings of these hearings, perhaps because the subject is considered a distasteful one. Whatever the cause, the immense body of scientific fact and expert opinion elicited by the subcommittee, by far the most comprehensive collection of such material available, has been woefully neglected, and it is a very real question whether we as a people can afford the price of that neglect. The report of the subcommittee stressed the point that science now provides tools for predicting with some accuracy what a nuclear war would be like, if we would but listen. Recognizing that facts about nuclear destruction are, in themselves, abhorrent, the subcommittee yet felt that it had no choice but to face up to these grim facts. Actually, no one today has any other choice, but as Koestler observed, most Westerners have simply not grasped—or accepted—this fact.

Grim as it may be, facing up to the facts of nuclear war does have certain advantages: the quantitative estimates and reasoned judgments of the experts who testified at the hearings introduced a degree of precision and accuracy into the discussion of a subject too often treated in a highly emotional manner. And, although some of their conclusions may well be challenged, some in turn challenge habits of thought about nuclear warfare that have persisted since the explosion of the first bomb.

From the many findings of the subcommittee, three general conclusions emerged: First, the public must be made familiar with the actual dangers of nuclear explosions—blast, fallout and radiation—and with effective counter measures. Second, adequate civil preparedness, thoroughly developed, can serve both as a deterrent against possible attack and, in the event of attack, as a means of saving millions of lives. Third, any nuclear attack on the U.S. is more likely to be a limited than an all-out attack.

"For the first time in history American communities have become a part of the main battlefield of a possible future war." So begins the report of the subcommittee, stating the condition which eventually must be accepted as more or less permanent, a corollary of the Cold War. When it is once accepted that this condition has been created by forces beyond our nation's control, perhaps then it may also be accepted that each of us must, for the purpose of simple survival, learn as much as possible about these particular dangers—the danger of radioactive material to humans, to food, to animals; the degrees of danger in various dosages; the necessary protective measures; the suitability of different types of shelters; and many other facts which could be priceless bits of information in an emergency. If responsible citizens throughout the country can be persuaded to learn these essentials, then take the necessary action by preparing adequate shelters, the country as a whole would move toward genuine civil preparedness, the kind that would provide not only maximum protection, but a powerful deterrent against nuclear attack.

THE VIEW that many lives might be saved, that many millions—if properly protected—might survive a nuclear attack is one that even today has apparently not been considered, or at least accepted, by a number of writers and editors who continue to refer to nuclear war as, by definition, the end. Yet competent witnesses before the subcommittee strongly upheld this view. In fact, it was estimated that a thorough shelter program could reduce fatalities of an attack such as the hypothetical one devised by the subcommittee from twenty-five per cent of our population to three per cent.

In order to investigate the problem systematically, the subcommittee drew up a hypothetical attack without reference to classified sources. They assumed that 263 nuclear weapons were detonated on 224 targets within the U.S. and, in order to study long-range fallout problems, that a larger number were detonated elsewhere in the Northern Hemisphere in attacks on U.S. overseas bases and in retaliation against the aggressor. This attack was judged by a number of witnesses to be a reasonably realistic one, considering all the variables involved.

To deter or contribute to the deterrence of such a nuclear attack would be the supreme accomplishment of any program, an achievement of inestimable value. And this is precisely what some witnesses believed an adequate shelter program, properly executed, might do. In the conclusion of its report, the subcommittee stated: "The burden of the testimony on this point [saving lives] was that if such protective measures [an adequate shelter program] were taken, the impact of America's ability to survive a nuclear war would be so great that the likelihood of such a war would be vastly reduced."

Besides its value as a possible deterrent, and as a safety measure in the event of war, adequate civil preparedness would also provide the country with a third kind of protection, according to the findings of the subcommittee: protection against possible Soviet "nuclear blackmail." To the degree that we are vulnerable to attack, under certain circumstances we are

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

vulnerable also to pressure based on threats of attack, a truism of power politics, but one considered today almost solely in terms of our retaliatory capacity and not our capacity to survive. Added security would accrue to any country that had both a retaliatory capacity and a capacity to survive.

On this point the subcommittee report states: ". . . it is apparent from the testimony of these hearings that the total unreadiness of the American people to survive a nuclear war—a state said to be well known both to the Russians and our allies—can greatly undermine our capability to resist possible Soviet 'nuclear blackmail.' " And we can take little comfort in the fact, brought out during the hearings, that Russia has already instituted a program to train the entire Soviet population in basic survival techniques. If civil preparedness can contribute significantly to a nation's security in general, and particularly to the deterrence of nuclear attack, the coming years are certainly no time for us to court the added vulnerability of a preparedness gap.

There are still other advantages to being prepared. Adequate civil preparedness, precisely because it would be non-military, would be of especial value if a disarmament agreement should ever be reached. For, as subcommittee witnesses pointed out, even with the soundest disarmament plan, adequate civil preparedness *in being* would be an added safeguard against possible blackmail, would make the nation less vulnerable in the event the agreement collapsed, and further, would be of the utmost value if the agreement were later repudiated and a nuclear attack did take place.

But if an attack should come, what kind would it be? This is, of course, the big question. Logically, all concepts of civil preparedness must be derived from the answer. In fact, one of the reasons that the idea of civil defense has not been seriously embraced in the U.S. thus far has been the general uncritical acceptance of the belief that any nuclear attack would be a total one. And, most unfortunately, this belief has been reinforced by such improbable pictures of nuclear war as that which was presented in Neville Shute's story.

On the Beach, a concept of nuclear war, was described as "science-fiction treatment of the spread of fallout" by one authority, Rear Admiral Edward Parker, Chief of the Defense Support Agency. Other experts who appeared before the subcommittee were equally concerned about the impressions and attitudes created by *On the Beach.*

In a statement which he had prepared for the subcommittee, Mr. Herman Kahn of Rand Corporation, who is recognized as one of the leading students of nuclear warfare, said: "While a thermonuclear war would be a catastrophe—in some ways an unprecedented catastrophe—it would still be a limited catastrophe. Even more important, the limits of the magnitude of the catastrophe might be sharply dependent on what pre-war measures had been taken."

TOTAL DESTRUCTION of mankind, then, is not the inevitable consequence of nuclear war. Rather, most experts agree that the country could and would survive an attack. This point is crucial: once we accept the fact that *some* people would survive, we have inevitably introduced the question, How many? And this, in turn, can only increase our respect for shelters and genuine preparedness. However, as Koestler suggested, the reality of the threat of nuclear weapons has not been generally accepted as a part of today's world; it simply has not been digested. Edwin Newman of C.B.S. News offered a convincing reason why this is the case. The entire subject, he observed, is so overwhelming that the individual citizen is generally unable to bring it into meaningful focus and, as a result, ignores it. And, of course, what is totally ignored does not have to be grappled with.

But no single attempt to inform the public, however exemplary it may be, can be more than a beginning. The task of educating our citizenry will be a monumental one, but somehow individual citizens must be informed, they must be made aware of the best knowledge we now have about the threat of nuclear weapons and about adequate preparedness. And our writers, editors and columnists will have to lead the way.

Once informed, the individual citizen may be persuaded to act. If it is true, as Professor Galbraith of Harvard maintains, that Americans in the post-war years have generally been far more concerned about carving out their place in the affluent society than they have been about solving any larger—public or national—problems, then we can only hope that something like the kind of citizen response symbolized by the Minuteman can somehow be rekindled in men's hearts. Today the hard fact of a shelter in every basement or yard should replace the quaint picture of a rifle over the mantle as the symbol of individual security.

Above all, the idea of a private shelter should not be mocked, as it so often has been, for a shelter is the best protection available to the individual citizen at this time. In the face of vast forces, it is something meaningful and constructive he *can* do, exercising his own free choice to defend himself and his family in the best American tradition. A lasting peace and nuclear disarmament are goals for which the country will continue to strive, but in the meantime, an adequate shelter is, for the individual citizen, no more than the nuclear age's equivalent of keeping his powder dry.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

A Roman Irony

by GUNNAR D. KUMLIEN

ITALY IS NOW celebrating the first hundred years of its unification. This is a solemn anniversary, celebrated in many different ways, with beautiful parades, magnificent festivals, long flights of rhetoric, and innumerable historical recollections. All the political parties are for once united in these celebrations, and are proud of what Italy is now: a peaceful country, which has the size and economic importance of a big power with its nearly fifty million inhabitants, but with as few dangerous ambitions as a small country. It is in other words what so many Italians call *"Italietta,"* little, civilized and idyllic Italy.

But the most interesting of all these recollections are undoubtedly those relating to that huge international body within Italy's borders: the Vatican. And here the comments of the Left and the Right are sometimes indignant, even if the indignation rarely appears on the surface during the celebrations.

It is on both sides mostly cultured people who have read their history and remember it. Isn't it almost beyond imagination, they say, that these celebrations are led and presided over by the Christian Democratic government, that is, by a Catholic party? Wasn't it precisely the Vatican and the Pontifical State which were the greatest obstacles to the unification of Italy? Wasn't it the Italian king who through military action deprived the Pope of his temporal power? And did not the Pope retire into the Vatican as "a voluntary prisoner" in order to protest? Wasn't Roman society as a consequence divided for generations into the "white aristocracy" of Monarchists and the "black aristocracy" faithful to the Pope? And now the Catholic party in Italy leads the celebrations of the victory—but victory over whom? The Pope! At the same time, the present Pope gracefully approves. That far things have gone in a hundred years! Who could then even have dreamed of such a course of events?

In fact, a hundred years ago the greatest enemy of the Vatican was the Italian monarchy. It not only destroyed the Pontifical State, but made Rome the capital of Italy in a way which appeared almost like a provocation. The Italian Monarchists recently held a congress in order to try to save their unity and the congress degenerated in the end into a general fistfight, so that many of those taking part in the congress and some of the journalists present had to take shelter under the tables or wherever they could. The Monarchist party, already badly compromised during the past years through the corruption of some of its most prominent representatives, has steadily lost importance, and now it has lost its last remnants of prestige. During the plebiscite immediately after the war, when Italians had to decide whether to keep the Monarchy or not, nearly half of the votes were in favor of it. Since then the king in exile has made the mistake of letting a political party represent the Monarchist idea, and now, after the last congress, coinciding with united Italy's hundred years, Italians are neither in favor of the Monarchy nor against it. They just laugh at it.

The Vatican had another enemy within Italy only twenty-five years ago, and relations with it were periodically as tense as those earlier with the Monarchy. This enemy was Fascism, and everybody knows what happened to it. Now its last representatives are the so-called Neo-Fascists, who from time to time make headlines. But these headlines are by no means in proportion to the real importance of the party, which is very small and woefully lacks both financial means and leaders. The young neo-Fascist hotheads who demonstrate from time to time in Italy add up to a sort of public entertainment or curiosity, and nobody has taken them seriously for years. This second enemy of the Vatican is ending up the same way as the Monarchy: in ridicule.

NATURALLY enough, it is on the Right that most bitter comments are made on the celebration of Italy's hundred years and where "the triumph of the Vatican" is most resented. But, strange to say, the same mixture of bitterness and resignation is to be heard on the extreme Left, among the Communist intellectuals.

The Communist party in Italy is still the biggest outside the Communist world; it is not losing ground; it has considerable financial resources and very able leaders. The fact is, however, that even this third enemy of the Vatican is almost completely isolated and neutralized. Communism in Italy has been compared to Gulliver in the land of Lilliput. Like Gulliver it has suddenly discovered that although it is a giant it is fettered by a thousand tiny threads and is more and

Mr. Kumlien, of the staff of the *Stockholms-Tidningen*, is The Commonweal's regular correspondent in Rome.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

more hampered even in its smallest movements. It is gradually being abandoned by its last allies, the Socialists of the Left and it seems destined forever to be the opposition. Its very size is its handicap, for it makes Christian Democracy the only possible alternative for a government. Countless jokes and cartoons exist in Italy about this: the gratitude that Christian Democracy really owes to Communism for the C.D.'s monopoly of power. It follows that the Christian Democrats have every reason to emphasize the Communist danger and undoubtedly they do their best, in spite of the fact that Communism is less and less awe-inspiring. The best recognition of this state of affairs is the Communist slogan, repeated again and again, that the Pontifical State does not exist any more, but that now the whole of Italy has in fact become a Pontifical State.

Actually, the Pontifical State came into being in order to insure the independence of the Vatican. At the time only a sovereign piece of territory with sufficient troops to defend it was the requirement for independence. Now the Vatican has obtained the same independence and freedom of movement in another way: a friendly, stable government in Italy. It is an improvement, for the Vatican has no civil responsibility now, of the kind which in the old days was only a disadvantage and a dead weight.

And the Pope? The man who according to the intellectuals on the Right and on the Left gracefully approves of this celebration of a victory over his predecessor is right now the Italian who enjoys the greatest prestige by far of all his countrymen. He is busy preparing the Second Vatican Council, which will gather in Rome more than two thousand bishops and heads of different orders in the greatest international parliament ever seen, speaking a language of its own, Latin, pronounced with a hundred different accents.

It is not that the Vatican has eliminated all these enemies one after another through a deliberate and diabolically clever policy. On the contrary, the policy of the Vatican as far as politics is concerned has often been incredibly naive and sometimes very shortsighted. Its enemies have destroyed themselves, one after another. Most probably, if somebody had prophesied to the Pope and Cardinals a hundred years ago what actually has happened, they would have dismissed it as the most unrealistic optimism.

For many Italians these hundred years are another example of the "labyrinthine ways," and are a good reason to hope for the future in spite of all.

ORGANIZING TEACHERS

"U" Is for Unions

by JOHN C. CORT

THERE IS a story that is sometimes told at union meetings. It is about the young lady who met a girl friend on the street. "Congratulations," she said. "I hear you're engaged." (It is considered bad form for a gentleman to congratulate a lady on catching a man, but women are more realistic.) "No," replied the girl friend, "I called it off. He told me he was a bricklayer when all the time he was only a bank president."

The point of the story is that the average wage of union bricklayers is about $4.25 an hour, which would be nearly $9,000 a year if the bricklayer worked steadily. Since the average bricklayer does not work steadily, this is not a story that you will hear at bricklayers' union meetings.

But the story has a more serious weakness. It is not really typical of young American womanhood. The average red-blooded American girl would rather starve to death with a bank clerk than live in luxury with a bricklayer. The average American girl believes that there is something degrading about manual labor. The average American girl also belongs to a church that holds as its official doctrine that God came to earth in the person of a poor carpenter. She sees nothing contradictory in the two beliefs. And neither does her brother, or her husband.

Because of the "psychic income" enjoyed by white-collar workers in the form of illusions of superior status, this group is not eager to join trade unions. The result has been that their real income has declined sharply in relation to that of factory workers. The average bank teller now earns less than the average factory worker. Back in the thirties the situation was exactly the opposite.

Only one out of six white-collar workers belongs to a union. The ratio of union to non-union among manual workers is nearly one to one. At the same time

Mr. Cort, for many years a contributing editor, writes frequently on labor questions.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the percentage of white collars is increasing, and the percentage of blue collars is declining. Automation is speeding up this trend every year. Back in 1919 the predominantly blue-collar industries accounted for sixty-one per cent of all non-farm jobs, the white-collar industries thirty-nine per cent. Today the white-collar industries have forged ahead and make up about fifty-four per cent of the work force. And within the blue-collar industries a higher percentage of the force is being assigned every year to white-collar jobs in the office, engineering, sales and research departments.

These are some of the reasons why the A.F.L.-C.I.O. is casting a nervous eye on a crucial election which is coming up before the end of the current school year among thirty-nine thousand public school teachers in the city of New York. For the first time these teachers are going to have an opportunity to vote for a collective bargaining representative.

One of the organizations that hopes to come off best in this election is the United Federation of Teachers, an A.F.L.-C.I.O. affiliate that claims about ten thousand members in the New York school system. If the U.F.T. wins, it stands to increase its membership greatly. Already this one local comprises nearly twenty per cent of the American Federation of Teachers, which has managed to organize only fifty thousand of the country's teachers in public and private schools and colleges. When you consider that there are nearly two million teachers, you can see what a small percentage this is of the eligibles.

BECAUSE teachers are not only white-collar but also professional, because their prestige rating is high in American society, and because their influence on coming generations is second only to that of parents, a victory for the A.F.L.-C.I.O. in the school system of New York would have significance far beyond the city limits and out of all relation to the numbers involved, impressive as these are. It was for these reasons that President George Meany assigned no less a person than Arthur Goldberg, now Secretary of Labor but then a special counsel for the A.F.L.-C.I.O., to represent the UFT before a committee of the Board of Education of New York City.

It might therefore be interesting to look into the unusual history of events that led up to the somewhat reluctant decision of the Board of Education to agree to this election. It might be particularly interesting because many of the issues involved are common to teachers and public schools throughout the land.

Whether the teachers of New York City believe in unionism remains to be seen. But there is no question but that they believe in organization. At the last count there were one hundred and seven separate organizations that lay claim to protecting the interests of teachers. These range from system-wide organizations like the U.F.T. to little groups such as the Association of Public School Teachers of the Deaf or the Teachers' Interest Committee of P.S. 190. The U.F.T. lays claim to being the largest. Other important ones are the Secondary School Teachers Association and the Elementary School Teachers Association.

These two latter groups have for years been working at cross-purposes. The high school teachers believe strongly that they should receive more money than grammar school teachers, partly because high school teaching requires more training and higher academic qualifications, partly because most of the male teachers are concentrated in the high school field. It is a fact of life that male teachers tend to have families which they must support and women teachers are either single or married to men who are themselves bringing in income.

Elementary school teachers, on the other hand, have always insisted on the single-salary system, namely, on the principal that an elementary school teacher is every bit as important as a high school teacher and that the only differentials in pay should be based on years of experience. This system has spread in recent years, coming to New York in 1947.

Since few communities can afford to pay *all* their teachers, men and women, enough money to raise a family of children, the result has been that the men go elsewhere and the teaching profession grows more and more female. Many communities have solved the dilemma by instituting a system of family, or dependency, allowances, so that salaries are increased in relation to the number of dependents a teacher might have. This solution, however, did not appeal to the teachers or the Board of Education of New York City. For years the deep-rooted conflict between elementary and high school teachers paralyzed the effectiveness of organization among teachers in New York City as it has, in fact, throughout the nation.

ABOUT A YEAR ago the A.F.L.-C.I.O. local in New York, which was then called the Teachers Guild, came up with a compromise solution which they called the "promotional increment." They asked that an additional $1000 a year be paid to all holders of licenses for which five years of training is required. This included all the high school and junior high school teachers (about fifteen thousand), but it also included more than five thousand elementary school teachers.

On the basis of this compromise the Teachers Guild, which had favored the single salary system, worked out a merger with a group of high school teachers known as the Committee of Action Through Unity. The new organization, much larger in membership, became the United Federation of Teachers but retained affiliation with the A.F.L.-C.I.O.

Rejoicing in its new strength the UFT pressed for-

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ward to win "promotional increments" and five other objectives. The first was the right of collective bargaining with the Board of Education and its chief spokesman, the powerful Superintendent of Schools. The other four were sick leave for substitute teachers, a dues check-off, a full thirty-minute lunch period (supposedly required by law), and a new salary schedule ranging from $5,000 to $10,000 (as compared with the current schedule of $4800 to $8300) and equal annual increments of $300 (as compared with the present system of increments which range from zero after one year to $390 after thirteen years).

The U.F.T. found, however, a formidable opponent in the person of John J. Theobald, who had become Superintendent of Schools in 1958. Theobald made it clear right from the start that he did not believe in collective bargaining. "I don't bargain with my own family," was the way he put it. He liked to refer to the teachers as "our folks" or, more simply, "my teachers." On another occasion he said, "I do not operate a private industry for profit, and the education of children is not a matter of collective bargaining."

But the teachers of New York City were not in a mood to accept this philosophy. In February of 1959 there was a strike (or "mass resignation") that closed all sixteen evening high schools. The strikers claim credit for the fact that evening school salaries went from $12.25 a session to $21.00; Theobald says that it was only a coincidence that the increase followed the strike.

A few months later what was then the Teachers Guild threatened a one-day stoppage. This was averted by last-minute negotiations leading to an agreement with Theobald for larger salary increases than he had planned.

The following September the Guild asked to meet with Theobald again. His response was to arrange a series of ten-minute "revolving door" meetings with all interested teacher organizations, large and small. These meetings were boycotted by the three major organizations: the Guild, the Secondary School Teachers Association, and the Elementary School Teachers Association, on the ground that they were not negotiations. The Guild picketed the building of the Board of Education in protest.

Then on March 17, 1960, came the merger of the Guild with the aforementioned group of high school teachers and the formation of the enlarged United Federation of Teachers. Theobald met with the U.F.T., but his stand at that time was that collective bargaining was "unthinkable."

The U.F.T. announced plans for a work stoppage on May 17, 1960. Once again the walkout was averted when an agreement was reached on May 15, two days before the deadline. The agreement included six points: a collective bargaining election to be held during the next school year if thirty per cent of the staff petitioned for it; dues check-off to go into effect January 1, 1961; "progress" toward a duty-free lunch period for elementary school teachers; five days sick leave for full-time substitute teachers annually.

The U.F.T. went to work and collected 12,563 signatures on a petition for a collective bargaining election. But still Dr. Theobald did not come through with the promised recommendation for an election to the Board of Education. He said the legality of the question would have to be studied.

MEANWHILE, in June Dr. Theobald's assistant, Bernard Donovan, met with leaders of other teacher organizations at the Board of Education headquarters. The U.F.T. charges that at this meeting Donovan phoned the National Education Association in Washington and made an appointment for these groups to meet with the N.E.A. in order to plan a united campaign against the U.F.T. Eight teachers and supervisors who went to Washington to keep this appointment were paid for lost time by the Board of Education, which called the principals of their schools in order to get them excused.

As a result of the Washington meeting the eight leaders signed a joint statement which said that teachers should not be affiliated with the A.F.L.-C.I.O., collective bargaining in New York's school system should be on a divisional basis, i.e., elementary, high school, etc., and teachers should never strike.

Shortly thereafter the N.E.A. opened an office in New York and sent in an organizer. The U.F.T. accused the Board of Education of promoting "a company union." (The N.E.A. describes itself as more of "a professional group" than a trade union and welcomes school principals and superintendents into its membership.)

September, 1960, came and went and still the substitute teachers did not get their five days sick leave. September came and went and there was no progress toward a full thirty-minute lunch period for elementary teachers. At a stormy rally on October 19 the U.F.T. renewed its strike threat and set November 7 as D-Day. It charged the Board of Education with violating the agreement of last May 15.

Subsequently the Board voted to give the substitutes three days sick leave starting in February, 1961, with an increase to six days for the 1961-62 school year. The Board also voted to ask for budget provision for six hundred additional lunchroom aides so that the teachers could all be given a full thirty-minute lunch period.

The U.F.T. stuck to its strike threat. This time Superintendent Theobald refused to take part in anything that might be described as negotiations even to the point of refusing to meet with mediators. The strike

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

took place as scheduled on Monday, November 7, but it lasted only one day.

Charles Cogen, U.F.T. president, summed up the strike issues as follows: "This strike is designed to focus the greatest possible attention on the shameful neglect of our schools, the overcrowding, the lack of teachers in the junior high schools, and the difficulty in attracting new teachers to the city." More dramatically, an editorial in the U.F.T. publication said, "This is a strike for our dignity, for our self-respect. We will smash once and for all the concept that teachers are educated fools."

"Once and for all" was perhaps too strong a phrase. The strike was not an unqualified success. The New York *Post,* sympathetic to the strikers, described it as follows: "The U.F.T. says it came close to crippling the school system. Reporters who covered the story place the number of teachers out on Monday about half way between figures supplied by the board (4,500) and the U.F.T. (15,000)."

Mayor Wagner came to the U.F.T.'s rescue. He appealed to their leaders to end the strike. He set up a mediation board of three top labor leaders—David Dubinsky, Jacob Potofsky, and Harry Van Arsdale—as a sort of fact-finding committee. The U.F.T. sent its members back to work. And so ended the first system-wide strike in the history of the New York schools and one of the few teacher strikes in the history of American schools.

Through the efforts of the mediators Theobald was persuaded to reduce to writing the position of the Board of Education on the six points in dispute, and it might be said that this is the nearest thing to a written agreement the New York school teachers have ever had. On virtually every point this position was akin to that demanded by the U.F.T. In the matter of sick leave for substitutes it was better than that demanded by the U.F.T. So that it might be said that the strike was a success, after all.

THE IRONIC part of it is that in calling its members out on strike the U.F.T. was violating both state law and a basic rule of its own international union, the American Federation of Teachers, A.F.L.-C.I.O. The constitution of the A.F.T. has provided for years that it shall not be the policy of the organization to engage in teachers' strikes.

How much this policy is a practical concession to the conservatism of teachers whom the A.F.T. would like to organize and how much it is an actual expression of the convictions of the present leaders of the A.F.T. is a matter for anyone's conjecture.

The morality of teachers' strikes is a question to which there is no ready answer. Catholic moralists define the conditions for a just strike much as they define those for a just war: reasonable demands, all other means exhausted, reasonable chance of success, the use of moral means, and some assurance that the good to be gained outweighs the probable evil effects.

It is in this last area that the guessing starts. In his own city the writer has seen the city fathers close down the schools for a week for nothing more serious than the need to clear the streets of snow. The evil effect of poor wages and working conditions on teachers, students, and the whole community is a question that can also be weighed, analyzed and compared to the evil effects of a strike without coming to any quick and simple answer.

Although teachers are professionals, they are also employees who have the same problems that other employees have in winning a living wage and decent working conditions. School boards are often just as reluctant as the most profit-hungry employer to spend money for wages, sick leave, pensions and the like.

If there is a question about the advisability of teachers' strikes, there is surely no question about the advantages to be gained from collective bargaining. It would seem that the teachers of New York City need a strong and effective organization to represent them in bargaining with their employer.

The writer may have his suspicions, but he would not venture to tell them which organization that might be. He would only hope that they make up their minds without regard to illusions and prejudices which are more properly found floating about in the empty heads of their less intelligent students, not in the supposedly sharp and perceptive brains of the teachers.

THE POET AS PRIEST

Like a farmer nibbling wheat in spike
He strides the field of his imagination
Scanning the sky for crow or quail,
Lifting wineskin to make thoughts reel.

Before they settle, the words hover
Over the page that they will bless or rend.
Will they thresh among the rhythmic spears
Or take nest from his expressive hand?

The poet extends each word as sign
Of longing for fruit. His incarnating lust
Lures him toward creatures that he loves
To offer grain warmed from his aching fist.

With incantations of his ritual,
Into the earth his utterance is thrust,
Word into flesh, seed into furrowed ground
To sanctify the creature's voice for song.

PIERRE HENRI DELATTRE.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

THE SCREEN

THROUGH GLASSES DARKLY

ALMOST EVERY shot of the young man who is the central character in the stunning Polish film "Ashes and Diamonds" shows him wearing dark glasses. He finally explains them as a souvenir of his love for his country: they are the result of too much time spent in the sewers during the Warsaw uprising.

Dark glasses, which partially obscure the glare of reality and keep the wearer from seeing confusion and filth too clearly, are only one of the many symbols used by Andrzej Wajda who directed "Ashes and Diamonds" and wrote the screenplay with Jerzy Andrzejewski, the author of the original novel. The action takes place in a Polish town on May 7th and 8th, 1945, the time of Germany's surrender, but the story itself runs before and after those days. Without using flashbacks, Wajda successfully evokes the past and the future in portraying characters who are caught up in a chain of events from which there is no escaping.

Maciek, the film's main character who is very well played by a popular young Polish actor Zbigniew Cybulski, has been assigned by the resistance unit to which he belongs the task of assassinating the new Communist District Secretary in this town. At the film's opening Maciek and his co-workers kill two other men by mistake, and at once the situation is established: Poles are killing Poles. "The struggle for the future of our country is just beginning." And the rest of the film is concerned with Maciek's carrying out his job. Although the war taught Polish resistance fighters to deal simply with their problems, death isn't always dished out simply; and with the Communists gaining strength they realize the hard-fought liberty is not being achieved.

"Ashes and Diamonds" is a complicated movie with many characters, but under Wajda's skillful direction, these emerge as lively human beings made up of good and bad and a hope to survive their dangerous time. The District Secretary is an elderly man who fought in Spain and now wants to help establish the Communist order in suffering Poland; his own seventeen-year-old son, who wearily says he's a hundred years old, is fighting against him with the resistance. Working with Maciek is an inspired resistance man who is troubled over their mistaken killing of two innocent people but is determined to go ahead with the assassination of the Secretary. Also working with them is an ambitious young fellow who wants to play both sides of the fence, but he behaves like a fool and cooks his own goose, in a hilariously funny scene when he breaks up the banquet for the mayor who has just been made the Communist minister. It is after this banquet that Maciek intends to kill the secretary at the hotel where they're both staying. But when Maciek is attracted to a very pretty barmaid, invites her to his room, and easily entices her into bed, the young man loses his taste for killing—and perhaps his interest in the cause. It is only his unwillingness to desert his comrades that prompts him to go through with the assassination, after which he himself is shot by soldiers and dies in one of the most grueling death scenes ever shown in a movie.

Not all of Wajda's symbols are clear, but as a filmmaker this director is very effective. He does make clear that these are troubled and confused times for Poland. The upper classes who hate Communists but do little to help the masses and the mixed-up people whose morals have gone awry—all filter through "Ashes and Diamonds." Maciek says, "I simply cannot go on killing, killing." And in a very moving scene, when he and the barmaid are standing in a bombed-out church before a crucifix from which the figure of Christ, torn from the cross, is swaying upsidedown in the wind, the young man tells the girl of his hopes for a new and normal life. It is also in this scene that the film quotes from the Polish poem which gives it its title, asking if only cinders will be left after all this burning, or "will the cinders hold the glory of a starlike diamond?"

"Ashes and Diamonds" doesn't answer the question with certainty. Its final early morning shots after the assassination shows the carousers at the banquet's end doing a drunken, almost funereal, dance to a Chopin polonaise played very much out of tune. And its last scenes of all concentrate on wounded Maciek, fleeing alone and doubled up in pain as he dies. Is this the death throes of his generation and the resistance—or of Poland itself?

IT IS INTERESTING that Andrzej Wajda, whose films have not previously been shown in this country, should suddenly turn up with two pictures at the same time. "Ashes and Diamonds," made in 1958, is the better of the two, but "Kanal," his 1956 picture, deserves consideration too.

Telling the story of a group of Polish resistance fighters who make a last stand against the Germans in September, 1944, and then struggle to escape through the sewers, "Kanal" shows why Maciek (he is not in the picture, but his counterpart is) has to wear dark glasses. It is a harrowing film, and one that exhausts its audience. After showing some of the fighting and the Warsaw shambles with its freshly dug graves, the film moves into the sewers—with emphasis on the filth and stench through which these worn-out fighters must make their way. While Wajda establishes a few char-

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

acters among the forty who wallow in the muck, he fails to win us to them or to draw us into the scene. The film's realism gives it a documentary aspect, but this realism, carried out in the dialogue translated into English by subtitles with words seldom if ever used in movies, and portrayed in a manner leaving little to the imagination, becomes almost more than the viewer can take.

Wajda, who served during the war in the Home Army for resistance, no doubt knows whereof he speaks, and his efforts to win our respect for these fighters deserve commendation. At the beginning, the film says: "These are our heroes. Watch them during their last hours." Many who applaud Poland's heroes will still find it too hard to watch them if their last hours are to be portrayed in minute detail. And these are.

PHILIP T. HARTUNG.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Words of Praise

by CLAIRE HUCHET BISHOP

IT IS EVIDENT that authors and illustrators of children's books do not work simply in order to win a prize or a medal. Yet to have one's work singled out and rewarded is undoubtedly a matter for rejoicing, even though, at the time, one might feel inclined to thank one's lucky star more than one's own merit. Indeed, upon receiving an award, what author or illustrator does not reflect that this colleague or that deserves it at least as much as he does? And how often does the creator of an honored book feel that one of his own previous works, which went by unnoticed, was in fact of a better vintage than the one rewarded? As for the unsung creators, they would be less than human if they did not sometimes indulge in "judging the judges."

Many factors enter judges' decisions, some more commendable than others. At any rate, to be a judge is always a ticklish job, rarely, if ever, satisfactory to all parties involved. Looking back we all can readily name books which, in our opinion, should have been singled out. Fortunately, this does not mean that these books have been forgotten altogether. Far from it. The children have seen to it—each successive generation has taken them to heart, notwithstanding the absence of award. Therefore, why not join the children, and, spelling judges, have the fun of naming to our hall of fame a few unsung books and authors?

Here I can speak only of books of long standing and few of them at that. I shall restrict myself to authors and illustrators of books published before 1950, keeping in mind only the three oldest awards—The Newbery, The Caldecott and the New York *Herald Tribune* Spring Festival.

First, I should like to name for public recognition, Esther Averill. Since 1931 Miss Averill has been making an important contribution, not only as a designer and maker of exceptionally good-looking books *(Daniel Boone, Tales of Poindi),* but also as author and illustrator. Among her creations the little black cat Jenny stands out. Jenny and her red scarf have been with us since 1944 when *The Cat Club* came out. Ever since, the gentle, resourceful Jenny has won the hearts of little children and adults alike, whether she adopts other cats, goes to sea, has her first party, or meets the Sand Cat. Every book about Jenny brings out a new facet of the lovable little creature full of good sense, fun and feeling. In gay, brilliant, red and yellow pictures, simple text, small format, Jenny's adventures are every child's adventures and dreams. Jenny has made a place for herself in the English-speaking children's world as one of the most original and endearing characters for younger children. My wish for Jenny is a saucer of creamy official recognition.

ANOTHER author-illustrator whom I would like to name is Valenti Angelo. He too stands underpraised. Since 1943, Mr. Angelo has written and illustrated some twelve books of his own about children of his native Italy. Perceptive insight into children's feelings, distinction both in thoughts and writing, a deep sense of humanity, pervade Mr. Angelo's work. Thus the world of the foreigner abroad and in America is brought to American children as only a poet and an artist can do it; it comforts and warms the foreign-born child and lights the lamp of understanding and love in the hearts of the American-born. *The Golden Gate,* which relates the coming of Nino to America, is one

---

Mrs. Bishop is well-known as an author of children's books. Among them are the following: *All Alone, The Big Loop, Blue Spring Farm, The Man Who Lost His Head, Pancakes-Paris, Toto's Triumph, Twenty and Ten, Bernard and His Dogs, Christopher and the Giant, The Ferryman, Five Chinese Brothers, Happy Christmas!, Martin de Porres, Hero* and her latest, *Lafayette: French-American Hero.*

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

of the most moving accounts in all children's literature of such an experience, and, to my mind, deserves to become a classic.

In addition to illustrating his own work, Mr. Angelo has also done pictures for a number of books by other authors, some of them in the most felicitous way, as in *Roller Skates* by Ruth Sawyer. Unfortunately there is yet no award for illustrators of other people's works unless, of course, they are primarily picture books with little accompanying text.

This may be the reason why such an outstanding illustrator as Fritz Eichenberg has still not received an award. However, considering his previous output (more than twenty books illustrated) one could have expected the judges to seize upon the opportunity of the brillant, exuberant, enchanting alphabet *Ape in a Cape,* a book in which both text and pictures were Mr. Eichenberg's work.

A similar case is that of the distinguished artist Jean Charlot who has illustrated some twenty books—for all ages—since *The Sun, The Moon and The Rabbit* came out in 1935. It is true that at that time the Caldecott medal did not exist. But Mr. Charlot deserves more than to have been runner-up twice since then. His contribution in presenting Latin America is unique, his craftsmanship superb, his originality provocative and his interpretation deeply moving. For instance, what he has done in *Martin de Porres, Hero* cannot, to my mind, be praised enough.

Another person who has been slighted, I think, is Kurt Wiese who has illustrated some one hundred sixty books over a period of thirty years. It is to be expected that not all of this large output could be of the same quality. However, it is plainly insufficient to have found nothing better, during all these years, to hand Mr. Wiese than a fourth place in the Caldecott award. Granted his unevenness, Mr. Wiese has given joy to thousands of boys and girls of several successive generations, and, we hope, will continue to do so. Some of his work is outstanding, like *Fish in the Air,* for instance. All of it is witty and gay without ever falling into vulgarity—a rare achievement even in children's books nowadays.

Mary and Conrad Buff have been with us since 1935. They specialize in stories and pictures of the Southwest with deserts, cliffs, mesas and Indian horses. There is serene beauty and a sense of quiet grandeur in their colored illustrations, together with a reverent approach to the Indian. With very simple means—or so they appear to the reader—the Buffs have succeeded in conveying, both in pictures and text, the essence, the inner meaning, the soul of American nature and its indigenous habitants. This is America, land and man. The Buffs have long deserved better recognition than to be three times runner-up for the Caldecott. *Dancing Cloud* is one of my favorite books.

A WORD now about books, the whole merit of which lies in the story itself. I would like to mention first *Downright Dencey*. This story of a little Quaker girl of Nantucket one hundred years ago is one of the best American creations in this century. It is a book as colorful in the authenticity of its background, as true in its psychology and as exciting in its happenings for eight- to twelve-year-old girls, as *Tom Sawyer* is for boys. Unhappily, Mrs. Snedeker is no longer with us. However my hope is that *Downright Dencey* may still receive, posthumously, the long overdue public recognition.

Another book which was well received by the reviewers when it came out but which fell short of being so much as a runner-up for the Newbery is *Railroad to Freedom* by Hildegarde Hoyt Swift. Am I wrong in thinking that had The Child's Study Association of America award existed then, that book would have been chosen? This is a real epic of the slave underground railroad and of the heroic, quasi-biblical figure of Harriet Tubman. Historical background, social changes, conflict of North and South interests—all these constitute the solid frame on which the author has built her breathtaking story of a great woman. This is a book of outstanding literary merit. Free from bias, unsentimental, written with noble simplicity, this thrilling biography is endowed with a strong enough impact to make a stimulating and lasting impression on young minds. Surely it is time to recognize in some official way the long-standing and inspiring contribution of Mrs. Swift.

From "First 3,000 Years" (Viking)

Many more books which I consider outstanding have failed to receive awards. In singling out a few of them here we are reminded that, as helpful as prizes and distinctions are, both to the creators and to the purchasers of books, we cannot rely on them entirely when it comes to choosing a book for a child. We have still to do our own work, make our own discoveries and use our own judgment. No judges are infallible, and, for that matter, no reviewers either, be they even those of The Commonweal. So happy hunting grounds to the readers of these columns and better luck to all worthy, unsung authors and illustrators!

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

A Selected List of Children's Books

by Claire Huchet Bishop

RELIGION

The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. Story and pictures by Katherine Wood. Kenedy. $2.50.

The text follows the Acts of the Apostles. Simply and well told. Vivid and reverent introduction to the two towering figures. 7-12.

Piat's Journey to the Holy Land. Story and Pictures by Sven Gillsäter Harcourt. $3.50.

Large-size, glossy paper and unusually beautiful photograph of Israel and Jordan. The presence of a little Swedish girl makes it of personal interest to all children. All ages.

Songs along the Way. By Elizabeth Allstrom. Woodcuts by Meil Silverman Abingdon. $2.50.

Fourteen among the best known Psalms, each one with a few introductory lines dealing with the background of the poem and the intention of the poet. No theological difficulties. Excellent for all children and adorned with powerful blue and tan woodcuts in dignified biblical style. 6-10.

Stories from the Bible. By Walter de la Mare. Ill. by Edward Ardizzone. Knopf. $4.95.

In his introduction the famous poet wrote: "If, in spite of all its defects and shortcomings, this book persuades any of its young readers, to return to the inexhaustible well-spring from which it came, it will have amply fulfilled its purpose." It will do so, I believe, through this reverential, restrained, sensitive and quietly colorful re-telling of nine Old Testament stories. Distinguished illustrations. A book for the whole family.

St. Anne, Grandmother of Our Saviour. By Frances Parkinson Keyes. Messner. $5.

Using some of the Apochrypha, together with her own impressions gathered through travels to many shrines here and abroad, the author presents St. Anne with reverence and understanding. Many full-page reproductions of famous paintings and a good bibliography. Unusual contribution on the life of a saint cherished by Catholics and Episcopalians. A book for the whole family.

Also recommended:
Other Bible Lands. By Bahija Lovejoy Ill. by Robert A. Jones. Abingdon. $3.75. 12 up.

From "The Big Horse and Little Horse" (Macmillan)

The Old Testament Story; Adam to Jonah. By Katherine Fessenden. Ill. with masterpieces of art. Walck. $4.75. The whole family.

PICTURE STORY BOOKS

Inch by Inch. By Leo Lionni. Obolensky. $3.50.

Inch by inch the inchworm measured animals and also saved his own life. Told in stunning, full-page colored illustrations worth framing. The tale itself will call for many encores on the part of children. 4-8.

The Golden Treasury of Caroline and Her Friends. By Pierre Probst. Golden Press. $3.95.

Coming from France where it has enjoyed great popularity for nearly a decade, this is a light-hearted story mostly in colorful pictures. The bouncing worldwide adventures of Caroline and her dressed-up animal friends are unusually lively and rich in humor. Children and adults will chuckle over and over again. 4 up.

Rapunzel. By the Brothers Grimm. Ill. by Felix Hoffman. Harcourt. $3.95.

The rich, full-page color illustrations by a well-known artist convey movingly the mystery and charm of an old tale. 6-10.

The Christmas Ghost. By Pearl S. Buck. Ill. by Anna Maria Magagna. Day. $2.95.

A boy discovers the power of the heart's memory. A tender tale, with blue and gold pictures. 7-10.

Half-as-big and the Tiger. By Bernice Frankel. Ill. by Leonard Weisgard. Watts. $2.95.

The "thinker" in the deer family wins the day. Skilfully told with traditional repeat devices, this gay tale might well become a classic. The lively funny pictures on orange-color pages add a lot. 4-8.

The Story of the Snails Who Traded Houses. By Ursula von Hippel, after a story by Gertrud von Hippel. Coward. $2.

A charming wee book, a wise wee story, lovable three-color drawings. A most endearing creation. 3-6.

Hannah the Helper. By Ruth Orbach Ill. by Judith S. Roth. Whitman. $2.25.

Hard to tell what is more fun, the realistic words or the pictures in this gay story glorifying the cleaning woman in a rabbit family. 4-8.

The Cats on Pier 56. By Helen Kay. Ill. by Ralph E. Ricketts. Reilly and Lee. $2.75.

Who would expect a longshoreman to be soft on kittens? Perceptive and picturesque story of the waterfront very well told and adequately illustrated. 8 up.

Deep Sea Farm. Written and ill. by Dahlov Ipcar. Knopf. $3.

In brillantly colored full-page pictures the young reader follows an imaginary tail-legged farmer and meets hawk fish, sea lions, bumblebees, sea hens, etc. This is a completely fascinating introduction to the deep-sea world. 5-10.

Also recommended:
The Big Rain. Story and pictures by Françoise. Scribner's. $2.95. 4-8.

Frogs Merry. Story and pictures by Juliet Kepes. Pantheon. $2.95. 4-8.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

FAIRY TALES AND FOLKTALES

Norwegian Folk Tales. From the collection of Peter Christen Asbjornsen and Jorgen Moe. Ill. by Erik Werenskiold and Theodor Kittelsen. Viking. $5.

Famous folk tales presented for the first time in America with the original 1879 illustrations. Informative foreword. A large, distinguished book of lasting value. All ages.

More Once-Upon-a-Time Stories.

Twenty happy tales to read and tell. Retold by Rose Dobbs. Ill. by Flavia Gag. Rand McNally. $2.95.

Heard in the author's childhood, these ancient tales here acquire a special flavor. They are superbly set down in lively and colorful English and are illustrated by a talented artist. 9 up.

The Na of Wa. By Verna Aardena. Ill. by Elton C. Fax. Coward. $2.

African tales full of charm and wisdom well re-told and illustrated. Companion volumes: *The Sky-God Stories; Otwe.* 6-10.

The Three-in-One Prince. By Elizabeth Johnson. Ill. by Ronni Solbert. Little, Brown. $2.75.

The middle son is the hero of this modern fairy tale which combines traditional devices and real originality. The "middle" child will love it! 7-11.

Also recommended:
The World's Most Truthful Man; Tall Tales told by Ed Grand in Maine. By Harold W. Felton. Ill. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Dodd Mead. $3. 9 up.

EASY TO READ

Miss Happiness and Miss Flower. By Rumer Godden. Ill. by Jean Primrose. Viking. $3.

A book which can be unreservedly praised. An outstanding example of the fruitful collaboration of author, illustrator and publisher. This gem involves two Japanese dolls, a forlorn and sensitive little girl and a jealous child who finally repents. A boy's important role makes it a book for all children. 6-10.

Rocket Mouse. By Lee Priestley. Ill. by Prue Theobalds. Abelard. $2.50.

A field mouse becomes mascot of the men working at a rocket-testing plant. Most entertainingly told from the mouse's point of view and with much accurate scientific information. 6-10.

Mud Pies and Other Recipes. By Marjorie Winslow. With ill. by Erik Blegvad. Macmillan. $2.50.

A cook book for dolls: molded moss salad, berry boats, sawdust cake, etc., all tried by the author's own imaginative children. A sure hit for little girls. 6-10.

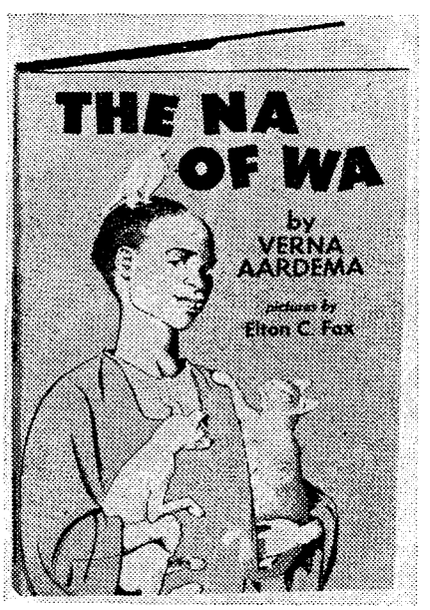
Dugan and the Hobo. By Jocelyn Arundel. Ill. by Wesley Dennis. Whittlesey. $2.95.

A boy, a hobo and a lonely horse, involved in an unusual racing track adventure. Delightfully unconventional. 8-12.

STORIES FOR MIDDLE AGE CHILDREN

"What Then Raman?" By Shirley L. Arora. Ill. by Hans Guggenheim. Follett. $3.50.

A boy of India is the first in his village to learn to read. The consequences are shattering to himself and of great importance to the whole village. Here is a world where food and books are not taken for granted and even small children move about with a solemn air of responsibility. A deeply moving book full of courage and hope. All ages.



From "The Na of Wa" (Coward-McCann)

A Poppy in the Corn. By Stella Weaver. Pantheon. $3.50.

A Franco-Italian Jewish orphan girl is adopted by an English family. Excellent characterization and a penetrating understanding of the psychological effects of life in a concentration camp on a young child. Story so engrossing that one disregards its length. 11-14.

A Brand New Uncle. Written and ill. by Kate Seredy. Viking. $3.

A boy well on the way to delinquency finds a real pal in a grandfather who, himself, is running away from the strain of too many grandchildren! A straight from the shoulder story, full of life and humor and grandly illustrated. 9-12.

Family Walk Up. By Elizabeth Stucley. Ill. by Laurence Beall Smith. Watts. $2.95.

A tenement in London, a lively and hard-working family beset with up-to date problems of glamour for the girls and possible delinquency for the boy. Fun and tragedy taken in stride with common sense and courage. 11-14.

The Incredible Journey; A Tale of Three Animals. By Sheila Burnford. Ill. by Carl Burger. Little, Brown. $3.75.

The gripping epic of a Labrador retriever, a bull terrier and a Siamese cat on a 250-mile journey in search of their master. 12 up.

The Earl's Falconer. By Ursula Mora Williams. Ill. by Charles Geer. Morrow. $2.95.

A poor boy courts death by his love for the difficult art of falconry exclusively restricted to noblemen. Told with a fine dramatic sense and a deep appreciation of the many attractive and unpleasant aspects of English medieval life. 11 up.

A Place for Johnny Bill. By Ruth Bishop Juline. Ill. by G. G. Helms. Westminster. $2.95.

A migrant worker family saga. Stark realism which, because of the sunny disposition of the children and adults, does not become too oppressive. 11-14.

Mystery of the Singing Strings. By Dorothy Clewes. Ill. by J. Marianne Moll. Coward. $3.

Unusual spy-detective story involving a concert viola performer and a group of lively English youngsters. 10-14.

The Sugar Pear Tree. By Clyde Robert Bulla. Ill. by Taro Yashima. Crowell. $2.75.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

A city boy wins a sugar-pear tree and lovingly nurses it until the police drive the family from their home because of a new freeway. A tragedy of the poor, simply and most effectively told and pictured. A happy ending. 8-11.

The Man-Eater of Shark Island. By Si Podolin. Ill. by Victor Mays. Harcourt. $3.

Well written by someone who knows about sailing, fishing and deep-sea diving in the Mediterranean. He is also well acquainted with French ways of life and American boys' psychology. 11-14.

Also recommended:
Milenka's Happy Summer. By Mary Libal Barker. Ill. by Paul Lantz. Dodd, Mead, $3. Girls, 8-12.

Treasure in the Sand. By Elizabeth Cheatham Walton. Ill. by Jo Polseno. Lothrop. $2.95. 9-12.

OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS

Adventure in the Desert. By Herbert Kaufman. Tr. from German by Stella Humphries. Ill. by Eugene Karlin. Obolensky. $2.95.

A Tuareg boy turned minstrel roams the Sahara to avenge his father. Unusual plot, a breath taking adventure and writing of high literary quality. This distinguished book received the German Young People's Prize. 14-up.

Sherpa Adventure. By Showell Styles. Ill. by author's sketches and by Matvyn Wright. Vanguard. $3.

An English youth conquers his physical and psychological handicaps through a harrowing experience in the Himalayas. A thrilling true-to-life tale with a great deal about the courageous and understanding sherpas. 14 up.

The River Ran East. By Leonard Clark. Funk & Wagnalls. $3.50.

First-hand account of the hair-raising adventures of Mr. Clark in the unexplored regions of the upper Amazon in 1947. Cannibals, head-hunters, unknown medical substances and remedies, and, finally, discovery of six of the legendary Cities of Gold. A book you cannot put down. 15 up.

Cap and Candles. By Dorothy Blatter. Westminster. $2.95.

A girl in Turkey who wants to become a nurse meets with what seems insurmountable difficulties. Sympathetic presentation of a modern Turkish girl and of old customs. Girls, 14 up.

Also recommended:
Looking for Orlando: The Underground Railroad. By Francis Williams Browin. Criterion. $3.50. 12-15.

Chip on his Shoulder: By Jo Sykes. Funk & Wagnalls. $2.95. Boys, 13 up.

Flying Doctor. In Australia wilds. By Michael Noonan. Day. $3.50. Boys, 14 up.

POEMS IN PROSE AND VERSE

Days to Remember; An Almanac. By William Lipkind. Ill. by Jerome Snyder. Obolensky. $3.95.

Westminster
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SHADOW ON DEVIL'S PEAK
By Amelia Elizabeth Walden. A marvelous story of love and intrigue, set in a beautiful ski resort. Girls 12 to 15.

LET'S GO STEADY
By Frances Priddy. Even young love gets bedeviled by jealousy. In this case it is provoked by the unlikely presence of a monkey. Girls 12 to 15.

THE REBEL TRUMPET
By Gordon D. Shirreffs. An exciting story about one boy's role in a little-known campaign of the Civil War. Boys 12 to 15.

SONG OF THE HEART
By Nancy Paschal. Her beautiful voice means Lonna must strive for artistic, as well as personal, success. Girls 12 to 15.

Betty Cavanna's new book
A TOUCH OF MAGIC
Three girls, including Peggy Shippen, in love with a merchant, a spy and Benedict Arnold, respectively, are the engaging heroines of this exciting tale of the Revolution. Girls 12 to 15.

FOLLOW YOUR DREAM
By Marjorie Holmes. Even girls who shudder at snakes will love this sparkling story of Tracy, a girl whose dream is to be a veterinarian. Girls 12 to 15.

BACKSTOP ACE
By Dick Friendlich. A possessive parent starts trouble in a major league team! Boys 12 to 15.

YANKEE TRAITOR, REBEL SPY
By Elinor Case. The Civil War invades a family and Charlie Castle lives in fear of the day when he'll meet his cousin on a battlefield. Boys and girls 12 to 15.

THE BLUE-EYED CONVERTIBLE
By Adrien Stoutenburg. To go to college, or court his girl in a convertible—that's the problem confronting the appealing hero of this true-to-life novel. Girls 12 to 15.

A PLACE FOR JOHNNY BILL
By Ruth Bishop Juline. The story of a lovable and courageous little boy whose parents are migrant workers and who dreams of a permanent home and the chance to go to school. Boys and girls 8 to 12.

THE POPULAR CROWD
By Anne Emery. To be in the "Popular Crowd", this coed discovers, she has to pay a tremendous price — and she's not sure she wants to. Girls 12 to 15.

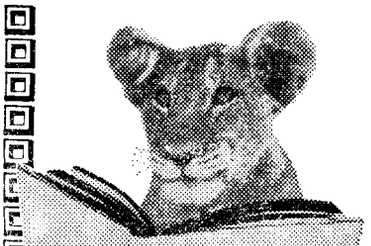
CAP AND CANDLE
By Dorothy Blatter. What happens when a young Turkish girl decides to become a nurse. Girls 12 to 15.

GIFT HORSE
By James L. Summers. Alan Whitlock gets a beautiful palomino for a present, and the horse turns out to be a hard-to-support rodeo winner. Boys and girls 12 to 15.

All books are clothbound. Each, $2.95

THE WESTMINSTER PRESS
The Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED



PANTHEON BOOKS
for boys and girls

ELSA
By JOY ADAMSON. The new picture book for all ages based on the best-selling *Born Free*. Beautifully printed in gravure. $3.50

THE CASTLE BOOK
By ALFRED DUGGAN. Now the great writer of historical novels introduces American children to the marvels of the English castle. Illus. Ages 9-12. $2.50

I AM FROM SIAM
By TATIANA BALKOFF DROWNE; illustrated by *Helen Meredith*. Two Siamese kittens come from Thailand to live in Brooklyn. Ages 6-9. Reinforced binding. $3.00

FROGS MERRY
Written, illustrated by JULIET KEPES. "A gay and original book." — *Horn Book*. Ages 3-6. Reinforced binding. $2.95

MY VILLAGE IN SWITZERLAND
By SONIA and TIM GIDAL. The eighth book in the highly successful *My Village* series. Ages 9-13. Photographs, maps, glossary. Reinforced binding. $3.50

THE LITTLE ROARING TIGER
Written and illustrated by REINER ZIMNIK. An enterprising little tiger is set upon by a mob of scheming gangsters. Ages 6-9. $3.00

A POPPY IN THE CORN
By STELLA WEAVER. Three English children get a new "sister", a French war orphan. Ages 11-15. $3.50

THE BOOK OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES
By JOSEF QUADFLIEG. A lively, illustrated presentation of the lives of the Apostles, and their courageous efforts to spread the Gospel. Ages 9-12. $3.00

Now at your bookstore
PANTHEON

This almanac conceived for the young has everything that makes almanac reading a delightful and fruitful pastime. The varied interests, the unpretentious yet dignified tone, the fine drawings and beautiful layout contribute to make this book a must for every household. All ages.

Words From the Myths. By Isaac Asimov. Ill. by William Barss. Houghton Mifflin. $3.

The Greek myths as a source of many familiar English words. A scholarly book which yet reads easily. A boon for the young mind curious about words and expressions. 11 up.

I Met a Man By John Ciardi. Ill. by Robert Osborn. Houghton Mifflin. $2.75.

The best nonsense rhymes I have read since Edward Lear's. And, in addition, excellent exercise in easy reading. Fun heightened by comic drawings. 7-10.

Hailstones and Halibut Bones; Adventures in Color. By Mary O'Neil. Ill. by Leonard Wiesgard. Doubleday. $2.95.

Easy poems which can spur children to make their own color discoveries in the world around them. Arresting illustrations. 7-10.

A Bundle of Ballads, compiled by Ruth Manning-Sanders. Ill. in two colors by William Stobbs. Lippincott. $3. Older boys and girls.

THE WORLD

The First 3000 Years. Written and ill. by C. B. Falls. Viking. $6.

Accurately, simply, vividly, and with a flair for what is important in each civilization's contribution the author tells of the ancient civilizations of the Tigris, Euphrates and Nile River Valleys and the Mediterranean Sea. And he has a rare feeling for continuity. Fascinating historical maps, lively drawings. A remarkable book. 12 up.

The Story of Africa; South of Sahara. By Katharine Savage. Ill. with photos and maps. Walck. $4.

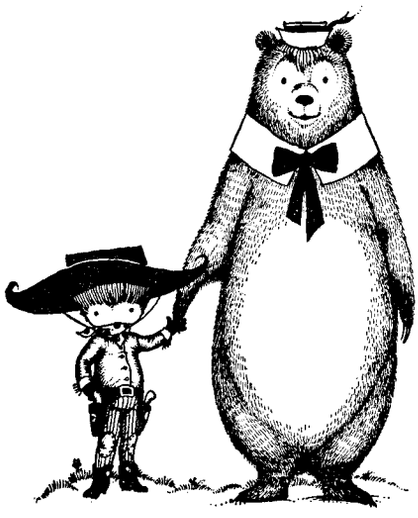
Up to date and absorbing information on all the different peoples and their history. A must. 12 up.

The Russian Alphabet Book. By Dr. Fan Parker. Ill. by Nicolai Cikovsky. Coward. $2.95.

A page for each decorative letter with some interesting information and lively drawings about Russian geography and ways of life. A real treat. All ages.

Maps Mean Adventure. Written and ill. by Christie McFall. Dodd Mead. $3.

How maps are made and how to read them. Clear information particularly useful in today's world. 12 up.



From "Cowboy and His Friend" (Harcourt, Brace)

Also recommended:
The World of Marco Polo. Written and ill. by Walter Buehr. Putnam. $3. 12 up.

INDIANS AND PIONEERS

The American Indian. By Oliver La Farge. Golden Press. $5.95.

A complete and fascinating history of all the different tribes, their past and present ways and their future. Lavishly illustrated with brilliant colored reproductions and fine drawings. All ages.

Winter of the Whale. By Robert Carse Ill. by Joseph Cellini. Putnam. $2.95.

Whale hunting by starving Indians off Shelter Island, N.Y. in the seventeenth century, and the heroism of a young Manhasset brave. Unusual, dramatic tale of natural beauty and human grandeur expertly told. 11 up.

Tomahawk. By Roberta Leigh. Ill. by Sally Mellersh. Taplinger. $2.50.

With the help of his two friends, a baby beaver and a big black bird, a nine-year-old Blackfoot Indian con-

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Harper Books for the children you love

SPRING 1961

PROFILES IN COURAGE

Young Readers Edition

JOHN F. KENNEDY. *Pictures by* EMIL WEISS. "Sharp, moving and provocative."— *N. Y. Times.*
Ages 10-14. $1.95

CLARE TURLAY NEWBERRY

FROSTY. *Pictures by the author.* Felice learns to love her huge Malamute. Ages 6-10. $2.50

NATALIE SAVAGE CARLSON

THE SONG OF THE LOP-EARED MULE. *Pictures by* JANINA DOMANSKA. A runaway mule in Spain. "Has humor and flavor." — *Library Journal.* Ages 7-11. $2.75

BROCK YATES

THE INDIANAPOLIS 500. Revised "Golden Anniversary" Edition. The up-to-date story of this fabled Speedway.
Ages 12 up. May 24. $2.95

At all bookstores • HARPER & BROTHERS

Classified

Irish Books and Gifts

• Books, Linens, Gifts, Catalogs
IRISH INDUSTRIES DEPOT, INC.
870 Lexington Ave., (near 65th) New York

Catholic Books

• CATHOLIC BOOKS, NEW and USED
Free Lists, Free Search Service
C. F. PETELLE, Box 289, Maywood, Illinois

Handmade Wedding Bands

• HANDMADE LITURGICAL WEDDING BANDS. Renard A. Koehnemann, c/o St. Benet Shop, Jackson & Wabash Aves., Chicago 4, Ill.

Tape Recording

• "RETREAT FOR LAY PEOPLE," Msgr. Knox. Meditations on tape by Oxford scholar. $4.95. Free 3" sample. LITURGICAL MUSIC, Box 689, Uniontown, Pa.

Hermitage

• HOLY FAMILY HERMITAGE of Camoldolese, McConnesville, Ohio, needs vocations. Write for information above. Help the Hermits.

Housing Investments

• WANTED: Investors to back their words with deeds. Issue: Housing without discrimination. For prospectus write Morris Milgram, PLANNED COMMUNITIES, 84 Nassau, Princeton, N.J.

"The American Abroad"
Rev. Denis Meehan
Professor, Ancient Classics
Immaculate Heart College

Dr. Hugh Gray
Professor, Theater Arts, UCLA

The Commonweal Club
of Los Angeles
911 Malcolm Ave., May 27, 8 p.m.
Admission $1

quers the wicked old giant Winter and a mean, crooked Indian. Delightful and convincing mixture of fantasy and reality. Further exciting adventures in *Tomahawk and the River Gold.* 6-10.

Antelope Singer. By Ruth M. Underhill. Ill. by Ursula Koering. Coward. $3.

Wagon trail to California. The Indians save the life of a white family whose children save an Indian boy. An effective tale of goodwill. 9-13.

The Road to the Valley. By Virginia Nielsen. Ill. by Vana Earle. McKay. $2.95.

Mormons on the way to Salt Lake Valley in 1848. Hardships, heartaches and the courage of a girl. Very well portrayed. 12 up.

Menonite Martha. By Margaret P. Strachan. Washburn. $2.95.

A little girl and her Mennonite family in 1880 Pennsylvania. Difficulties in maintaining a way of life different from the rest of the people. Very moving. Girls, 9-12.

ATOMS AND SPACE

Atomic Energy. By Irene D. Jaworski and Alexander Joseph. Harcourt. $4.95.

Essentials about Atomic energy through a number of easy experiments, clear explanations and diagrams. 14 up.

The Book of the Atom. By Leonard de Vries. Tr. by Eric G. Breeze. Ill. by Gerard Van Straaten. Macmillan. $3.95.

Absorbing, clear, and easy-to-read account of the history of atomic power. 14 up.

The Milky Way Galaxy. By Ben Bova. Ill. by Peter Robinson. Holt, Rinehart & Winston. $5.

Up-to-date information under many headings and in short paragraphs. A concise, helpful book. 12 up.

BIOGRAPHIES

Profiles in Courage. (Young readers ed.) By John F. Kennedy. Harper. $1.95.

A fresh approach to some of the American political statesmen who needed unusual courage. Written knowingly and with solid historical background. Older boys and girls.

VIKING JUNIOR BOOKS

OTTO IN AFRICA

Story and Pictures by
WILLIAM PÈNE DU BOIS

When giant Otto was a gangling pup, he and his master saved a city from attack by Abou the Fierce and his bandit horde.
Ages 5 to 8 $2.50

MISS HAPPINESS AND MISS FLOWER

by RUMER GODDEN
Illustrated by Jean Primrose

Nona responds to a powerful wish of two tiny Japanese dolls and in making a home for them makes a place for herself. Ages 8 to 10 $3.00

A BRAND-NEW UNCLE

Written and Illustrated
by KATE SEREDY

The Smiths, tired of so many children and grandchildren, solve their problems by adopting a ten-year-old boy! Ages 9 to 12 $3.00

CARAVAN FROM TIMBUKTU

by MIMI COOPER LEVY
Illustrated by Frederick T. Chapman

High adventure in West Africa in the fourteenth century when Batu joins 60,000 on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Ages 10 to 13 $3.00

THE FIRST 3000 YEARS:

Ancient Civilizations of the Tigris, Euphrates, and Nile River Valleys, and the Mediterranean Sea.

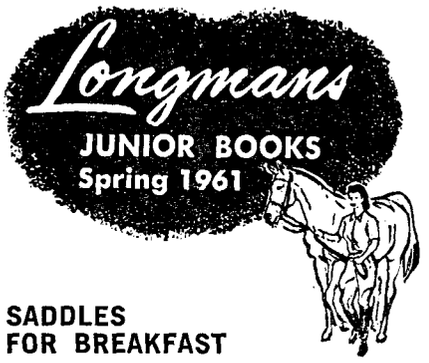
Written and Illustrated by C. B. FALLS

A superlatively readable introduction to a segment of "background" history. Many fine maps in color.
High School Age up $6.00

Send for free complete 146-page illustrated catalogue of all Junior Books

THE VIKING PRESS
625 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED



SADDLES FOR BREAKFAST

By Janet Randall. Decorations by Paul Laune. 16-year-old Robin helps to re-establish her cousin's run-down Sycamore Stables. Ages 12-16. $3.25

HOSTAGE TO ALEXANDER

By Mary Evans Andrews. Jacket and map by Avery Johnson. Damon of Rhodes learns to understand Alexander the Great's magnificent dream. Ages 12-16. $3.75

THE RACE TO THE SOUTH POLE

By William Bixby. Jacket by Bruno Junker. Four separate expeditions, culminating in the exciting race between Amundsen and Scott. Ages 12-16. $3.25

THE DRAGON TREE

A Life of Alexander, Baron von Humboldt

By Val Gendron. 8 pp. of halftones from von Humbodlt's published works. An illuminating biography of the 19th-century German savant and explorer. Ages 14 up. $3.95

RANCH BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS

By Stephen Holt. Decorations by Pers Crowell. Two hard winters passed before Larry's vision of a perfect ranch came true. Ages 12-16. $3.50

QUIET BOY

By Lela and Rufus Waltrip. Illustrated by Theresa Kalab Smith. A brave Navajo boy finds adventure in a desert blizzard. Ages 8-10. $2.95

At all bookstores
All books cloth bound

LONGMANS, GREEN & COMPANY, N. Y. 18

NEVER TOO LATE TO BECOME A PRIEST!

HOLY APOSTLES SEMINARY
Cromwell, Conn.

- **Exclusively for Belated Vocations to the Diocesan, Religious or Missionary Clergy**
- **Full Course Leading to B.A. Degree, including accelerated Latin.**

Write to Director of Admissions

Wild Animal Man. By Damoo Dhotre as told to Richard Taplinger. Little, Brown. $3.50.

Gripping story of an internationally known animal trainer and his extraordinary experiences. Spectacular photos. 12 up.

From "Hannah the Helper" (Whitman)

She Lived for Science: Irene Joliot-Curie. By Robin McKown. Messner. $2.95.

An unusually perceptive biography of a woman great through her parents and in her own rights. Older boys and girls.

FOR ADULTS

Plays and Creative Ways with Children. By Gertrude Kerman. Ill. by Margaret Zimmerman. Harvey House. $6.95.

Detailed explanations and information regarding dramatics for children from 5 to 14. Twelve plays studied as examples; the author herself has directed them. A helpful and stimulating book.

GAMES AND SPORTS

Fun and Play all the Way. By Annie Blaine. Ill. by Luigi Jamucci. Hart. $1.

What restless youngsters can do in a car, a train, a plane. A boon to parents as well as children! 6-10.

Michael Sails the Mud Hen. By Peggy and Gordon Aymar. Ill. by Bob Smith. Hastings House. $3.50.

Everything a young child needs to know in order to man a small skiff. Told in story form, it anticipates the usual questions and mistakes. A book for every family going to the seashore.

The Baby-Sitter Storybook. By Mary Furlong Moore and Muriel Fuller. Longmans. $2.95.

Short tales, amusing riddles to read or tell. A wonderful help to young babysitter.

SERIES

The number of books in uniform series grows each season. All we can do here is list a few recommended books in some of the series.

Great Day. Abelard. $2.50. Festivals in different countries. Simple text, colorful pictures. Nice feeling of universal brotherhood.

Why Ziva cried on the Feast of First Fruits. By Moshe Shamir. Ill. by C. Satorsky. 6-9.

Imagination Books. Dutton. $2.75. Direct stimulation of imagination for little children. Large size, brilliant colors.

Let's Imagine Being Places. Words by Janet Wolff. Pictures by Bernard Owett. 4-8.

exciting ***new books*** *for* ***teen-agers***

THE RIVERS RAN EAST
LEONARD CLARK

This is the almost unbelievable story of an American explorer who set out, with one companion and almost no equipment, to search for the legendary golden treasure of the Incas —buried for centuries in the jungles of the Amazon.
". . . a superior book, as valuable for its factual data . . . as for its power to communicate the thrill of the unknown."—*Saturday Review.* Maps and photographs. $3.50

ZEBULON PIKE: Soldier and Explorer
LEONARD WIBBERLEY

Pike's Peak is a monument to this brave and brilliant soldier and explorer who traced the Mississippi almost to its source and explored portions of the Louisiana Purchase. A thrilling biography drawn from Pike's own journals. Maps. $2.95

At your bookstore

FUNK & WAGNALLS
153 East 24th Street, New York 10

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Saints and Friendly Beasts. St. Anthony's Guild. $1.75. Plenty of pictures and a very easy text.
St. Germaine and the Sheep. By Eva K. Betz. Ill. by C. B. Vukovich. 7-10.

This is Our Country. Taplinger. $2.50. Each country presented with fifty gay colored photos and an interesting text from a child's point of view.
The Fishing Boats (Italy). By Michael Portland. 10 up.

The First Look at. Watts. $1.95. The world around us—elements and countries. Short informative text and many full-page, colored pictures. Answers many a child's questions.
The Country in Spain. By A., J.M. and Goico Aguirre. 6-10.

Major Cultures of the World. World. $3.50.
India. By Walter A. Fairservis, Jr. Ill. by R. M. Powers. 14 up.

Around the World Treasures. Watts. $4.95.
The Complete Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde. Ill. by Charles Mozley. 10 up.

Christian Child's Stories. Bruce. $.50.
The Little Juggler. Based on a folktale by Anatole France. 6-9.

Famous Childhood. Roy. $3.
The Young Alexander the Great. By Naomi Mitchison. Ill. by Middleton-Sanford. 12 up.

Child's Life in Other Lands. Friendship Press. $2.75.
I'm Nady (Brazil). *I'm Chandran* (India). *I'm Beya* (Africa) Three easy-to read books boxed in a folding paper house. 6-9.

Clarion Books. Doubleday. $1.95.
If All the Swords in England. By Barbara Willard. Ill. by R. Sax. 12 up.

Landmark Books. Random. $1.95.
The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler. By William L. Shirer. Older boys and girls.

American Background Books. Kenedy. $2.50.
Margaret Haughery, Headwoman of New Orleans. 12 up.

Getting to Know. Coward. $2.50.
United Nations Crusaders: How UNICEF Saves Children. By Jim Breetveld. 8-12.

A Book to Begin on. Holt. $2.50.
Our American Language. By Leslie Waller. Ill. by A. Battaglia. 6-9.

Walt Disney's Animal Adventures. Golden Press. $2.50.

The Odyssey of an Otter. By Rutherford Montgomery. Ill. by H. Greene. 10 up.

Living Biographies for Young People. Roy. $2.50.

Yehudi Menuhin. By Norman Wymer. 12 up.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
in
JAPAN

needs qualified Catholic American teacher in English Department

adequate salary
3-year contract
free housing
passage from and to U.S.

Send credentials to:
Box 47
The Commonweal
386 Fourth Ave.
New York 16, N.Y.

Book Stores

NEW YORK, N.Y.
BARNES & NOBLE, INC.
105 Fifth Avenue, New York 3, N.Y.
Over 1,000,000 Used & New Textbooks of all publishers at reduced prices

WHEELING, W. VA.
Corcoran's Church Goods Co.
Catholic Trade & Liturgical Books
Publishers of Mac Eachen Catechisms
P. O. Box 647
Wheeling, West Virginia

PITTSBURGH, PA.
KIRNER's
Catholic Book Store
309 Market Street
Pittsburgh 22, Pennsylvania
Phone: CO 1-2326 and 1-2327

SOUTH BEND, IND.
Aquinas Library & Book Shop, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation
108-112 East LaSalle
South Bend, Indiana
Mail orders welcomed
All the new and standard books—
Religious Articles—Prayer Books & Missals

ST. LOUIS, MO.
B. HERDER BOOK CO.
TWO STORES
15 AND 17 SOUTH BROADWAY
1007 OLIVE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

ST. PAUL, MINN.
THE E. M. LOHMANN CO.
413-417 Sibley St. St. Paul 1, Minn.
Phone CApital 2-6801

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Notes on a Point of View

OF ALL THE EFFORTS that have been made to summarize this magazine's point of view, perhaps the thumbnail description that comes the closest to the truth remains the statement that The Commonweal represents "not a movement but an attitude."

That attitude is a Catholic attitude, and The Commonweal is generally referred to as a Catholic publication, although it is not, to use the term people apply to diocesan papers and magazines published by religious communities, an "official" Catholic publication. Rather, The Commonweal is, quite simply, a magazine published by men who are themselves Catholic and who endeavor to express a point of view on temporal matters in conformity with their religious principles. . . .

Since the editors of this magazine are laymen, its primary concern is with the temporal order, which is the specific province of the layman. In the light of their religious beliefs, the editors see the temporal order as being directly related to the spiritual, and their day-to-day judgments reflect this conviction.

Add to this the further fact that contributors to The Commonweal include many of the world's ablest Catholic writers, and it is not hard to see what distinguishes this magazine from comparable "secular" journals and why the magazine is generally thought of as Catholic. But there is nothing more "officially" Catholic about The Commonweal than this, and the editors have always gone to some lengths to make this fact quite clear. . . .

There is no secret about the fact that The Commonweal frequently represents a minority point of view—or at least a point of view quite different from that found in many diocesan papers and Catholic magazines. For example, the editors were —and are—unable to share the enthusiasm of most American Catholic publications for Generalissimo Franco. In Father Coughlin's era The Commonweal saw his *Social Justice* as intolerant and totalitarian in spirit, and said so. More recently, while some "official" Catholic publications heaped praise on Senator McCarthy and scorn upon his critics, the editors of this magazine viewed his "crusade" in a context of national fear and self-doubt and felt it had little to do with any rational means of dealing with the Communist threat.

That our opinions on such public questions drew criticisms and disagreement from other Catholics did not surprise us. . . . There is nothing extraordinary about the fact that Catholics frequently disagree on specific questions of the day. Indeed, the only extraordinary thing would be if this were not the case. But what is disturbing is the way some Catholics try to elevate personal judgments on passing events or political figures into dogmas of orthodoxy which all must hold if they are not to be labeled "pseudo" or "so-called" Catholics.

—from the 35th Anniversary issue

THE COMMONWEAL, 232 Madison Ave., New York 16, N. Y.

Enclosed is $2. Please send the next 17 issues to:

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY, ZONE, STATE .....

5/26/61

For New Subscribers:

SPECIAL

TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION

OFFER

17 issues for $2

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED